

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8665

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IV, XY

SUBJECT: ENTENTE ANIVERSARY

1. AS PART OF CELEBRATIONBY ENTENTE MEMBER STATES OF ORGANIZATION'S FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY MAY 29, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ISSUED STATEMENT LAUDING ENTENTE. NOTING THAT IT TOOK COURAGE TO FORM IT IN 1959, HE CALLED IT A VETAN AMONG REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ONE WHICH HAS REMAINED REALISTIC, DYNAMIC, AND IMAGINATIVE OVER THE YEARS, TACKLING NOT HASTILY CONCEIVED OR GRANDIOSE PROJECTS BUT ONES WELL CONCEIVED, OF A SIZE IT COULD HANDLE. HOUPHOUET PRAISED ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY PAUL KAYA AND STAFF FOR THEIR EFFICIENT, SOLID WORK, AS WELL AS FOR FACT ENTENTE ENJOYS GOOD REPUTATION IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES. FINALLY, WITH ITS FORMULA OF FLEXIBLE ASSOCIATION AND WORKING IN CONCERT ONE WHICH MUST BE PRESERVED--ENTENTE'S GOAL REMAINS CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND HUMAN ENSEMBLE, WITH PRIORITY ON DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL MARKET REPRESENTING THE CLOSE TIES.

2. AT LAYING OF CORNERSTONE FOR ENTENTE-FINANCED DISPENSARY IN
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ONE OF ABIDJAN'S FASTEST GROWING SUBURBS, KAYA NOTED SECRET OF

ENTENTE SUCCESS LIES IN ORGANIZATION'S WORKING IN PRAGMATIC MANNER
FOR DEVELOPMENT, LEAVING TO EACH STATE ITS ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY AND
CHOICE OF OPTIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS ATTENTION IS DIRECTED BRIEFLY TOWARD THIS ORGANIZATION
WHICH WORKS QUIETLY AND EFFECTIVELY AT DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MEMBER
STATES, IT STRIKES EMBASSY THAT THERE MUST BE FEELING OF SATIS-
FACTION ON PART OF ONLY REMAINING FOUNDER, HOUPHOUET, THAT THROUGH
THICK AND THIN ORGANIZATION HAS ENDURED, OVERPERIOD OF TIME QUITE
REMARKABLE IN AFRICA. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT HOUPHOUET MADE NO
MENTION OF POLITICAL CONSULTATION FUNCTION OF ENTENTE, WHICH IS NOW
LARGELY A THING OF THE PAST AND IS RECOGNIZED BY IVORIANS AS SUCH,
IF SOMEWHAT SADLY. IN ORGANIZATIONAS IT PRESENTLY EXISTS, EACH
MEMBER STATE IS ABLE TO GO ITS OWN WAY POLITICALLY, WHILE RETAINING
AN AGENCY WHICH CUTS ACROSS FRONTIERS TO ASSIST CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTAL
NEEDS.
SMITH

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